

California

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From the Alta California, March 4.

THE COURT and the PEOPLE have long been customary in the Parliament of the British majority, when the measures of the ministers have been so objectionable that they cannot support them, to pass a resolution expressing a want of confidence in the ministers' advisers. A leading recommendation of the ministry dated is looked upon by that body as an unmistakable indication of want of confidence. Another result usually follows such an act of the Parliament. The ministry resign their positions, and thus give the monarch the opportunity of appointing a new cabinet, who can carry with them into the exercise of their duties the confidence, the sympathies, and the respect of the people, and especially of the legislative department of the government.

At the present time most of our courts stand in a similar position towards our people as do the British ministry towards Parliament after a vote of censure, and self-respect, and patriotism have been so outraged that the British councils, they will at once resign. There can be neither decency nor honor in holding on to offices after

But I say, the unanimous condemnation passed upon them and the people, is the only one that will ever be made by any people. With one consent the people have taken their own hands the adjudication of law and justice, and because they know no confidence could be placed in the tribunals. And why has the community come to this conclusion? Simply because our courts, instead of being the protectors of the innocent, have made themselves the protectors to villains, and thus encourage of crime. This is a hard accusation, but it is true.

There can be no doubt that in California five hundred murders have been committed. And yet, with enactment defining the crime of murder, and affixing the penalty of death for the crime, on our statute-books, not one single offender has been hanged. The only reason why no offender who has passed through the mummery of an examination or trial has been let loose upon society again, with the endorsement of the court upon his character, is that he is not guilty. Thus he has been made current coin of the community, while before he was at best but a bad man.

Our courts have thus rewarded crime by retri-

is the criminal. It will not do to tell our people that this utter impunity has been the result of causes beyond the courts' control. No one will believe it, no one ought to believe it, simply because it is false, and these people know it.

Trials have been postponed upon the most frivolous pretences. Every man knows that in our state of society a delay is equivalent to a mistrial or acquittance. No witness can be retained sufficiently long to be used when the trial occurs. Our readers can call to mind instances enough to prove our assertion. These postponements have been made in order to give the accused time to make his defence, and to give the jury time to consider the evidence. But the law has made all penalties a nullity, all trials a farce, all law a mock and reproach, and nearly all the judges, and a large portion of the bar, objects of thorough distrust, and not of heartless execration. The people feel that confidence in law and order, their safety, their protection, is being sacrificed to the interests of a few unprincipled men who have, by contrivance of the most dis-

The result has been seen and felt. There is no mistake about it. Beyond endurance, beyond endurance, have calmly, not with riot, denounced the pseudo impositions of law and order, called administrators of justice. There is now not one particle of respect left for the officers of the courts. If they hold on to their offices, they will do it at the expense of all decent respect for public opinion. They will have to administer the laws by wholesale administration of the laws by good and efficient men, whom the people will be certain to put in their places if they will but vacate them. Their continuance in office can be of no practical good. They are condemned in public estimation beyond all hope of ever regaining the confidence and respect of an outraged community. They have done evil, caused, and suffered enormous

to be done, by the lax and wicked course of slurring over time through quibbles and hair-splitting, ignorance and selfishness. The people call upon them now to make room. The citizens demand that the courts be cleared of the clutter of courts and legal processes, than they have ever been. It is a part of their creed. And they will gladly hail the first possible chance of testifying this faith by electing men whom they believe to be honest and capable to the places now filled for no particle of good by those who will not even attempt to respect enough to give them a hearing any weight or influence.

Our people have thus far acted with as much decency as earnestness in this matter. As soon as men in whom they have confidence were appointed to try the criminals, they adjourned as peacefully as they had assembled. It is not at all the case with bludgeoned men, who are treated as they are right and justice, and a deep-rooted conviction that they cannot get either through our present institution. They will have no trifling—they will submit to

no useless delay. They know that the only chance of meeting out punishment to crime is a system of legal administration which shall be, like the country, quick and efficient.

We therefore call upon our legislature to come to the aid; and to our representation from this city we particularly appeal. Their constituents ask of them and expect from them an immediate effort to perfect and pass for us a code of laws suited to our peculiar condition—one which shall be a just and stern means to administer justice every day, and without the power of postponing a criminal trial beyond a very moderate time. In case an absolute necessity existed for a longer delay, let the power to grant it be so deposited and so guarded that it cannot be abused.

Let the law be stern and stern means to administer them—robbers, riots, and lynch law will become the order of the day, and the palladium of our safety be lost forever. We

do not advocate Lynch law. Well-regulated courts, intelligent juries, learned and honest judges, administering a well-defined code, are what our city and State require more, perhaps, than any other State in the Union. And when our legislature shall give us such—which it can and should do immediately—our people will be found not only willing to give all necessary confidence, adhesion, and support to them, but will hail them as harbingers of a better day. We appeal to our legislature, on the part of a suffering and abused community, to come to our relief.

From the San Francisco Public Ledger, March 18, 1892.

Tremendous Excitement!—Lynch Law Advocated

Our city was on Saturday afternoon thrown into a tremendous excitement by the news of the execution of the numberless assassins and robbers that have recently taken place within the corporation limits, and more especially by the brutal assault of last Wednesday night upon the person

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the mass and that was in favor of lynching the prisoners—several in our hearing even professing to prefer to hang them. About this time the crowd began to grow and was increased from some unknown quarter, to add to the general excitement:

"CITIZENS OF SAN FRANCISCO: The series of murders and robberies that have been committed in this city without the least redress from the laws seems to leave us entirely in a state of anarchy. "When the honest traveler fears to each bush a thief! Law, it appears, is but a nonentity, to be snuffed as redress can be had for aggression through the never-failing agency of the vigilantes. We demand this process be redressed, but that it seems to be inevitably necessary.

"Are we to be robbed and assassinated in our dominion, and our aggressors perambulate the streets unmolested merely because they have furnished straw-bell? If so, let each man be his own executioner." "Fire upon your

The crowd in the court-room was altogether so dense that it was impossible for one to gain a position where the word of the testimony could be heard, although it was continually reported that the witnesses for the prisoners